authorities have recently cleared the cases of 3498 Indian workers. The details of these cases were published in *Al Shabiba*, Arabic daily, on 09.06.2008.

(c) The two sides are in regular touch in the matter.

(d) Under the present scheme, till date 478 Indian nationals have been repatriated. Once the process is completed other cases will be dealt with similarly.

(e) In order to prevent the incidence of illegal immigration of Indian nationals, a number of pro-active measures have been taken which include:—

(1) Mandatory prior attestation of Service Agreements of semi-skilled and unskilled workers;

(2) Dissemination of information to educate the Indian workers in the Sultanate of Oman about their rights and duties;

(3) Introduction of Open House sessions on Mission premises on third Friday of every month to listen to the problems of Indian workers in an informal atmosphere;

(4) Introduction of free legal counseling sessions twice every week on Mission premises to advise and assist Indian workers on labour related matters.

List of most wanted persons

†1929. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the list of 'most wanted' persons has been submitted to a neighbouring country;

(b) whether it was discussed in the meetings held during last one-two months;

(c) whether it is a fact that this was one of the motives behind calling of ISI Chief; and

(d) the time when discussion was made on the subject with friend countries and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Since August 2004, lists of individuals wanted for terrorist acts in India have been handed over 10 times to the Government of Pakistan.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Since the terrorist attack on Mumbai, Government has received strong international support from numerous countries.

Calling of ISI Chief

†1930. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether effort has been made to call in the Chief of ISI from Pakistan after attack on Mumbai;

(b) whether it is a fact that even after conceding it, Pakistan did not act accordingly; and

(c) the purpose to call in the Chief of ISI and the manner in which it would be fulfilled now?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Pakistan Foreign Office issued a Press Release dated 28 November 2008 which said 'In separate telephone calls today to the Indian Prime Minister, the President and the Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation and indignation on the terrorist attacks in Mumbai and expressed Pakistan's readiness to extend every assistance and cooperation that Government of India may require in investigating these incidents. Director General (ISI) will visit India in this regard'. A similar Press Release was issued by the Pakistan Prime Minister's Office. However, DG, ISPR, Spokesperson of the Pakistan armed forces subsequently announced that no decision had been taken. Government expects that strong action would be taken against those elements, whosoever they may be, responsible for the terrorist attack in Mumbai.

Indo-Iran gas pipeline

1931. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of Government on the media reports that India is not inclined to push through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project but is very keen on Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently the Minister held bilateral talks with Pakistan on TAPI pipeline;

(c) whether it is also a fact that China is eagerly waiting to grab IPI pipeline in view of India not showing keen interest in this pipeline project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In order to enhance country's energy security, Government is simultaneously pursuing import of natural gas from Iran through IPI gas pipeline project and from Turkmenistan through TAPI gas pipeline project. The Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas had attended the 10th Steering Committee Meeting of the TAPI Project at Islamabad on April 23-24, 2008. During the visit bilateral issues between India and Pakistan pertaining to the IPI Gas Pipeline were also discussed.

(c) and (d) No discussions have been held between India and China on the IPI Gas Pipeline Project.

Shortage of housing

1932. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state: